

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-206

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Region II Wildlife Drinker Maintenance and Operation, 2015-2016

Region and Game Management Unit: Reg. II, GMU's 5,6,7,8,9

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Williams/Flagstaff

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES☒ **NO**☐

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES**☒ **NO**☐

If Yes, was it funded? **YES**☒ **NO**☐ → **Funded HPC Project #(s):** 08-205, 10-214

Project Type: Maintenance and Operation of Water Developments

Brief Project Summary: Fund the annual operation and maintenance of Numerous Region II Wildlife Drinkers for 2 years (2015-2016)

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: All Miscellaneous Region II Game and Non-Game Species

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

Spring 2015

Project End Date:

Fall 2016

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes☐ No☐ N/A☒

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes☐ No☐ N/A☒

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A☒

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$3500.00 per year, \$7000.00 Total

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$14,140.00 year, \$28280.00 Total

Total Project Costs:

\$ 35,280.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Tom Mackin

Address:

1081 W. Ardrey Circle, Flagstaff, AZ
86001

E-mail:

tmmackin@q.com

Telephone: 928-779-9127

Date: Aug. 20,2014

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Larry Phoenix, 928-774-5045

Project has been coordinated with:

AZGFD, Kaibab National Forest, Coconino National Forest

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS: Over the past several decades there has been numerous wildlife drinkers built throughout the southern portion of Region II, an area that provides excellent summer and winter habitat for a wide variety of game and non-game species, except for a dependable source of water. While there are numerous earthen tanks and some natural depressions, there is no dependable supply of water throughout the hundreds of square miles under discussion. Maintenance on these developments, which may total between 100 and 150, has been provided by volunteers, Wildlife Managers and Development crews, but only on a very informal basis. Coordination and communication has improved in recent years since these activities have been increasingly important. Because water availability is a key component to wildlife carrying capacity, a more dependable method to maintain these developments is necessary to provide optimum conditions. This will become increasingly important as these developments continue to age and the forest and climatic conditions continue to provide less available water. The prior projects have received numerous accolades from all agencies involved as the activities were carried out in a timely, cost efficient and professional manner by the two primary volunteers.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: Our objective is to once again provide a dependable water supply for multiple wildlife species on approximately 500 square miles of critical wildlife range through the continuing operation and maintenance of these various existing developments. Making use of existing developments would reduce replacement costs, minimize the need for expensive compliance analysis and insure the availability of adequate water supplies.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES: With a team of dedicated volunteers provided by the Coconino Sportsmen and other NGO's, working under the direction of the various GMU Wildlife Managers and other Region II supervisors, a detailed plan will be developed to maintain all AZG&FD drinkers found throughout the listed GMU's. Additional drinkers developed by the USFS may also be included in this plan when deemed in the best interest of the Department. Already in place from previous projects, is an inventory of existing developments, including specific location, current condition, importance to overall objectives and feasibility for continued operation. Data was collected from various sources, including existing Department inventories, WM's knowledge, USFS databases and other field observations. During earlier projects, additional consultation was conducted with the Development Branch when the overall condition of a particular site warranted repairs or replacement beyond the scope of this project. As in the past, maintenance will be limited to minor fence, apron, catchment and drinker repairs or replacement, generally not to exceed \$500 per site per year. Major repairs or redesign will be referred to the Development Branch. Wildlife Managers and other Department personnel will provide volunteers with a priority list based on overall project objectives, other available sources of water and other applicable criteria. It is estimated that volunteers may spend approximately 800-1200 hours annually providing these services with an average of over 500 hours in the field per year per volunteer. Water hauling by the volunteers to critical locations identified by Department personnel would be included in these tasks utilizing Department equipment available under the Department Volunteer program.

PROJECT LOCATION: All locations will be within AZG&FD Region II, primarily south of the Grand Canyon, including GMU's 5 through 9 with most activities occurring in GMU's 7 and 9. Additionally and new for this proposal, will be a limited expansion of some maintenance and repairs to existing developments in Region II north of Grand Canyon National Park.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

•

USFS

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: The habitat ranges in elevation from approximately 4000' up to approximately 9000'. This elevation range includes pinyon juniper woodlands, open grasslands, mixed conifers, primarily ponderosa pine, oaks and other typical Colorado Plateau habitat types.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Funds will be utilized to pay for necessary plumbing supplies including pipe(s), valves, floats, adhesives and other consumables. Every activity will be planned to maximize fuel efficiencies and volunteer availability. Additional funding for miscellaneous hardware, such as screws, T-Posts, clips, fence stays and other necessary items may be included in this project or supplied by other agencies when available. Replacement tools as well as professional services, including welding and fabrication, may also be included in project expenses.

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Volunteers will not receive a salary for their efforts but their labor will be counted towards Cost Share at \$14.14/per hour for an average of 500 hours per year for a total of \$7070 per volunteer, with generally two volunteers providing most labor.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION: The members of the Coconino Sportsmen and other volunteers will provide all primary labor for this project.

The USFS may provide some materials, site reviews and coordination. Other assistance may come from individuals with some of the “partner groups” and AZGFD personnel.

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[] N/A[x]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN: Reports from AZGFD, USFS, and other interested personnel will assist in monitoring activities. Volunteers will plan to visit each inventoried site at least once each year.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE: The project is an ongoing activity type to include all maintenance and operation, with variables based on weather, location, and need. Additional enhancements beyond the scope of this project will be handled via separate project submissions.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: At the end of each work season, a written report including maps and available photos will be submitted to the Department by the Coconino Sportsmen outlining the activities, man hours and mileage as well as a written invoice to cover expenses incurred. Additional verbal reports will be provided at the LHPC meetings and the semi-annual State HPC meetings. Activity reports will be submitted to Region II Supervisors, Development Branch and appropriate WM’s following each day of activities.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS *(please use the worksheet below):*

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS *(please use the worksheet below):*